

## **BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 18, 2008**

- John Carman called the Committee to order at 7:35 p.m.
- Phil Alperson provided the following updates:
  - On October 29, Phil attended a meeting at DBED with other MD BRAC Coordinators to provide updates on BRAC issues.
  - On November 7, County Executive Leggett responded to the BRAC Committee's letter of Oct. 21 about the first version of the Navy's Draft Master Plan Update. ***The County executive's letter is attached to this meeting summary.***
  - On November 12, Phil attended a meeting of the Metropolitan Development Committee of the Washington Council of Governments. The Committee received a BRAC overview from Gen, Mike Hayes of MD DBED and Cyrena Eitler of OEA. Phil provided a background and status report of Bethesda NNMC BRAC.
  - On Nov. 13 in Rockville, MDOT held its annual "Road Show," a presentation of the State's draft 2009 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for the County's Annapolis delegation. The Bethesda BRAC intersections project is included in the draft CTP; it is not listed in the Montgomery County chapter but is included in a separate BRAC chapter. The previously announced deferral of out-year construction funding is noted in the draft CTP. ***Phil was unable to attend but Debbie Michaels of the BRAC Implementation Committee attended and provided her commentary which are attached to this summary.***
  - Phil has been coordinating a 2009 legislative strategy for NNMC BRAC-related project funding with Congressman Van Hollen's staff. MDOT and MoCo DOT are involved in this strategizing.
  - Speaking of Congress, Phil noted that Congressman John Murtha, one of the leading advocates in Congress for Walter Reed, was re-elected after an unexpectedly close campaign.
  - The County has formally submitted a grant funding request to OEA for a facility study for pedestrian and bike path upgrades.
  - The BRAC web site's Home Page experienced some difficulties in recent weeks but they have been straightened out.

- Ilaya Hopkins reported on recent activities of the Coalition of Military Medical Center Neighbors (CMMCN). They had a substantive meeting with the Annapolis delegation from Districts 16 and 18 who represent Bethesda-Chevy Chase. They will attend a legislative briefing this Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. Earlier today, the 18<sup>th</sup>, Ilaya, with George Milne and Debbie Michaels, testified at a County Council session about the lack of specific funding for BRAC projects in the County's 2009 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and the Council's need to place greater urgency on BRAC projects. Ilaya noted that County Executive Leggett and Council President Knapp had requested the Annapolis delegation to consider BRAC projects a matter of statewide or regional significance, but this should not preclude the County's taking action on its own. ***Ilaya's remarks are attached to this meeting summary.*** The Coalition will be meeting in the near future with key staffers for Senator Mikulski and Rep. Van Hollen, and hope to have a similar meeting with Senator Cardin's staff.
- NNMC presentation (***NOTE: a PowerPoint is attached with this meeting summary.***)
  - Ollie Oliveria provided updates for the National Naval Medical Center. Construction on Outpatient Building A and Inpatient Building B is moving forward. Construction on the first new parking garage has begun. A Request for Proposals for Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ) construction will be issued soon. The bulk of dump truck activity is passed, although truck activity is not completely finished. The prime contractor continues to work hard to minimize truck disruptions in the neighborhoods. Ollie estimated that the Navy spends an average of approximately \$900,000 each day on BRAC at NNMC.
  - Jeff Miller reported on the recently published version of the Draft Master Plan Update (DMPU) that was formally submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) on November 7. He noted that the DMPU originally published last August has undergone extensive changes due largely to comments submitted by members of the BIC. The new version is posted on the NNMC BRAC web site, as well as the County's BRAC web site, and can be accessed at: [http://www.bethesda.med.navy.mil/Professional/Public\\_Affairs/BRAC/index.aspx](http://www.bethesda.med.navy.mil/Professional/Public_Affairs/BRAC/index.aspx). Jeff noted it is important to read the entire document because it has been changed throughout. NCPC will hold hearings on February 5m 2009. Shahriar Etemadi said that the Park & Planning Commission will have hearings prior to the NCPC hearings; a date has not yet been scheduled. Highlights of the Revised DMPU include NNMC's commitment to achieving the NCPC-preferred 1:3 parking ratio, reducing single occupancy vehicle use by NNMC personnel by 28%, to explore increased shuttle bus service to the campus from outlying areas, and within the campus from the Metro station. Kiss and Ride locations along MD 355 and Jones Bridge Road are being studied. On the turn lane improvements at North Wood Gate, planning discussions are ongoing with the State Highway Administration and the County Dept. of Transportation.

- **John Carman asked the Committee members to review the Revised DMPU and transit comments to Phil within the next two weeks, to determine what recommendations the Committee should offer to County Executive Leggett.**
- John Carman distributed the Coalition of Military Medical Center Neighbors' "Vision for the National Medical Center Area" and initiated a follow-up to the discussion begun at the October BRAC Committee meeting. For background, John distributed a page from the Revised DMPU that referenced a series of seven goals and objective in the Park & Planning Commission's Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan, and a section of that Master Plan that details those goals and objectives. *Those documents are all attached to this meeting summary.*

The discussion focused on the CMMCN's concerns that ongoing BRAC-related transportation projects are short-term band aids that do not fit into a long term context. In short, anticipated growth should not reduce the quality of life in the area. There is a fear that once these short term projects are implemented there may be little follow-up by responsible authorities to address long term traffic and development issues throughout the region that feeds Bethesda. There is a real need for a thorough corridor study beyond the immediate NNMC area and an articulated long term vision for integrated transportation programs that ensure smooth flow of traffic and a reduction of single occupancy vehicles in the area.

It was observed that the events of 9-11-2001 drastically changed the way of life in the area that is based around two major federal facilities. Fences and security measures that were non-existent now have dictated new vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns. The various agencies – federal, regional, state and local – that determine transportation and security policies must always coordinate so that conflicting decisions do not waver from long-range goals and objective for the area. An example was discussed that better regional commuter ride-sharing strategies can be developed if disparate agencies can collaborate.

Shahriar Etemadi noted that the County's Park & Planning Commission has a very progressive ability to simulate long term community development scenarios that is well recognized. Park & Planning can work with the Committee to help flesh out ideas.

**It was noted that the goals and objective detailed in the BCC Master Plan are a well articulated reflection of the sentiments expressed in the CMMNC "Vision" document. John suggested that Committee members review the BCC Master Plan and note where and how visions for the NNMC area could be further articulated, and transmit those comments to Phil so that the Committee could revisit this in December.**

**John also observed that it would be helpful if the ongoing BRAC-related transportation projects that are detailed on the County's BRAC web site be displayed in an easy-to-read matrix summary. John and Phil will try to develop it.**

- The Committee discussed schedule conflicts for the meetings routinely scheduled for the third Tuesdays of January and February 2009. The meeting routinely scheduled for January 20 conflicts with both the Martin Luther King federal holiday and Inauguration Day, and the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting would conflict with the Presidents' Day federal holiday. The Committee agreed to reschedule those meetings for the fourth Tuesdays of January and February – Jan. 28 and Feb. 24.
- John solicited comments from the public. One question was asked about how regional planning is coordinated. Shahriar noted that NCPC and Park and Planning play major roles in regional coordination. Gerry Cichy of MD Transit Administration referred to an earlier comment about regional ride-sharing, that local transportation management districts have been working to develop such a program for the greater Bethesda area.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the BCC Services Center.

**Committee members in attendance, November 18, 2008:**

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator  
 Ed Krauze for Jon Alterman, Bethesda-Parkview Citizens Association  
 John Carman, Committee Chairman  
 Dave Dabney, Bethesda Urban Partnership  
 Shahriar Etemadi, M-NCPPC  
 Chuck Floyd  
 Leslie Weber for Brian Gragnolati, Suburban Hospital  
 Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Assn.  
 Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Assn.  
 Deborah Michaels, Glenbrook Village Homeowners Association  
 George Milne, Stone Ridge School  
 Patrick O'Neil, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce  
 Michael Plantamura, Chevy Chase View  
 Andy Scott, MDOT  
 Paul Thaler, Locust Hill Citizens Association  
 Sara Morningstar for Melanie Wenger, Montgomery County Intergovernmental Relations  
 Ron Wilson for Dan Wheeland, NIH

**Ex-officio:**

Ken Reichard (Sen. Ben Cardin)  
 Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)  
 Delegate Bill Bronrott  
 Council Member Roger Berliner  
 Rear Admiral Cindy Dullea, Deputy Commander, Navy Medicine National Capital Area  
 Jeff Miller, NNMCT Transportation Program Manager  
 David "Ollie" Oliveria, NNMCT BRAC Program Manager  
 Capt. Daniel Zinder, Deputy Commander NNMCT

**Other attendees**

Gerald Cichy, Maryland Transit Administration

Jan Clark, USUHS

Dennis Coleman, NIH

Marcy Jackson, Montgomery College

Kristi Kelly, JTF CapMed

Juvonnie Kinchen-Schneider, NNMC

Paul McComb, NNMC

Lashdeep Singh, FCA

Andrew Ujifusa, Gazette Newspapers